

July 13, 2021 Tuesday @ 6:00 PM
SIERRA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT # 1
FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING AGENDA
FIRE STATION 82, SIERRAVILLE CA

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON AND VIA "CONFERENCE CALL". THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELEPHONE SHOULD CALL (701) 802-5316 AND USE ACCESS CODE 5188908.

CALL TO ORDER:

Roll Call of Commissioners

{ } Tom Rowson, Chairperson { } Richard Maddalena { } Laurie Belli { } Tom Archer
 { } Candy Hunter { } Shawn Burt { } Vacant

Quorum Yes/No

PUBLIC INTRODUCTION:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Matters under jurisdiction of the Sierra County Fire Protection District #1, and not on the agenda, may be addressed by the Public at the beginning of the regular agenda and any off-agenda matters before the Board for consideration. However, California law prohibits the Board from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda. Any member of the public wishing to address the Board during the "Public Comment" period will be limited to a maximum of three minutes.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Approval of the Minutes: 6/8/21

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

1. Review P&L, Balance Sheet, Report of Funds as of June 30, 2021 **H**
2. Approve Bill Payments **H**

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM DISTRICT CHIEF, BATTALION CHIEFS AND EMS COORDINATOR:

1. Chief's Report (Response Summary, Fleet, Communications System, Faculties) (Mick)
2. Training / Recruitment/ Retention (Mick)
3. EMS (Mick)
4. Medical Supplies
5. Discussion/Action: Approve purchase of new BK programmable hand-held radio for Fire Chief. (Mick)
6. Discussion/Action: Purchase printer and supplies to print IDs for incidents. (Mick)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Status of appeal for fire services rendered during the Loyalton Fire (Rick/Kelly)
2. PSPS Grant for generator purchases in Calpine and Sierraville, including contract with Steven Alfred for Flood Plain Survey. (Rick)
3. Status of exploring budget feasibility and pay structure for District Chief compensation. (Tom R.)
4. Status of surplus of foam equipment. (Rick)
5. Status of payment to fire fighters who served in Loyalton and Sheep fires. (Kelly)
6. Discussion/Action regarding Cooperative Agreement with Tahoe National Forest. (Rick)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action regarding letter of support to BOS to encourage funding to clear and fill Calpine Reservoir for fire suppression. (Tom R.) **H**
2. Discussion/Action for approaching Sierraville, Sattley and Calpine residents to explore possibility of uniting under one Fire Fighters Support Association and organizing as a 501(c)3 non-profit (Tom R./Rick/Tom A.)
3. Discussion/Action to seek reimbursement from Sierra County, Title III funding for the Sugar Fire and Loyalton Fire. (Rick)
4. Discussion/Action: Amend District Clerk Independent Consultant Agreement, Exhibit B, to reflect \$50 per month increase from \$1,250 to \$1,300 effective July 15, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: August 10, 2021 at 6:00pm in Sierraville

ADJOURNMENT:

Key: T – Tabled from previous meeting H – Handout

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER, PLEASE CALL 530.604.4013 AHEAD IF YOU NEED ANY ACCOMODATIONS.

June 8, 2021 Tuesday @ 6:00 PM
SIERRA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT # 1
FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING AGENDA MINUTES
FIRE STATION 82, SIERRAVILLE CA

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON AND VIA “CONFERENCE CALL”. THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELEPHONE SHOULD CALL (701) 802-5316 AND USE ACCESS CODE 5188908.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 pm

Roll Call of Commissioners

{ X } Tom Rowson, Chairperson { X } Richard Maddalena { X } Laurie Belli { X } Tom Archer remote
 { X } Candy Hunter { X } Shawn Burt { } Vacant

Quorum Yes/No

PUBLIC INTRODUCTION: John Mitchell, former Commissioner of Calpine auxiliary volunteer fire department. Jeff and Tami McCollum, SCFPD#1 volunteer fire fighters and Sierraville/Sattley Fire and Rescue Service. Paul Roen, Sierra County Supervisor District 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Mitchell presented a letter addressing Stacey Estrada regarding organizational and procedural issues the Calpine volunteer group is in discussion on. Tami McCollum spoke passionately about differences between the Sierraville/Sattley support group and the Calpine support group. Commissioner Archer expressed a fundamental need for the three groups to form one, legally legitimate, unified auxiliary group that had equal voting representation from each of the three groups. Paul Roen was present for discussion regarding an agenda item.

Chairperson Rowson moved to Unfinished Business, Item #3 in respect for Paul’s time and attendance.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Approval of the Minutes: 5/11/21 Commissioner Maddalena moved to approve the 5/11/21 minutes, Commissioner Belli seconded. 6 Ayes (Burt, Maddalena, Belli, Archer, Hunter, Rowson), motion passes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

1. Review P&L, Balance Sheet, Report of Funds as of May 31, 2021 H
2. Approve Bill Payments H Commissioner Belli moved to approve the payment of the bills presented, Commissioner Hunter seconded. 6 Ayes (Maddalena, Belli, Archer, Hunter, Burt, Rowson), motion passes. Prior to close of meeting Commissionr Burt moved to pay Stacey Estrada for supplies purchased for the Calpine Station and Tony Brooks for relocating a gas line at the Sierraville Station, Commissioner Maddalena seconded. 5 Ayes (Maddalena, Belli, Archer, Burt, Rowson), motion passes.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM DISTRICT CHIEF, BATTALION CHIEFS AND EMS COORDINATOR:

1. Chief’s Report (Response Summary, Fleet, Communications System, Faculties) (Mick) Chief Connolly reported response to a boat fire at Webber lake in conjunction with the USFS. He met with the Sheriff’s department to go over the Zonehaven evacuation management. The service truck is having fuel issues and felt it could potentially be surplused. There was a large air compressor donated for Station 83. The entry door codes on the Stations will be regularly changed as procedure.
2. Training / Recruitment/ Retention (Mick) EMS training occurring as usual, upcoming hose lay with forest service engine company, June 26th 9am-12pm doing regional drill with Plumas and Sierra County on structure fires, sending a Type I engine. Potential new volunteer from Willow. Volunteer Serenity is helping with Chief administrative tasks.
3. EMS (Mick)
4. Medical Supplies

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Status of appeal for fire services rendered during the Loyalton Fire (Rick/Kelly) Appeal was denied. Commissioner Maddalena to consider a second appeal.
2. Discussion/Action Approve 2021/2022 Preliminary Budget (Laurie) Commissioner Belli presented the 21/22 Preliminary Budget on behalf of the Finance Committee. Included was a projected 3% tax revenue increase and a \$1,000 TOT revenue item as a placeholder until there was more information. She proposed a cost-of-living increase to the Clerk’s contract payment of \$50 per month and added a placeholder of \$12,000 annually for a contract for Training and Recruitment services.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding agreement to provide fire suppression equipment from Paul Roen Company for faster response times and enhanced suppression of wildland fires. (Tom A./Rick) **Commissioner Archer submitted a draft contract and Paul said that everything looked ok aside from some equipment modifications needed to Appendix A. He expressed he had more than adequate insurance coverage and presented his proof of insurance. Commissioner Archer moved to approve the contract with the changes, Commissioner Hunter seconded. 5 Ayes (Maddalena, Belli, Archer, Hunter, Rowson), 1 Abstain (Burt) motion passes.**

3. Status of generator purchase for Calpine and Sierraville stations from PSPS Grant funds (Rick) **Commissioner Maddalena has been working on the \$36,300 project and looking into money saving options. Direction was given to the Clerk to receive and pay a bill to move a gas line and there was a trencher scheduled for June 16th. The grantor had extended the project deadline date. Commissioner Burt asked if the District would consider doing something at the Sattley station.**
4. Status of exploring budget feasibility and pay structure for District Chief compensation (Tom R.) **Chairperson Rowson presented contracting with Mick Connolly outside of his Chief duties to compensate him as a Training, Recruitment and Retention consultant. Commissioner Archer spoke on the definition of an employee vs contractor and different liability risks. Tami McCollum spoke in support of the proposition, appreciating the idea of paying Mick as a consultant "to keep volunteers volunteering".**

At 7:34pm Commissioner Hunter left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairperson Rowson moved discuss Item #5

1. Review and accept new Cooperative Agreement with Tahoe National Forest. (Rick) **Commissioner Maddalena did not have a new proposal from TNF yet. Commissioner Burt said there should be something coming in next month and in the meantime, they would be going back to the 12-hour CFAA agreement.**
2. Discussion/Action regarding CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant guidelines released and due July 14, 2021. (Tom A.) **Commissioner Archer said that this grant has come to his attention although he was not sure that the District would qualify. Discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the District to stay out of fuels reduction efforts.**
3. Discussion/Action regarding surplus old command vehicle (Tom A.) **Commissioner Burt asked if there was any need to keep the vehicle. It was unclear if the District owned it or the County. Commissioner Maddalena moved that if the District owned it to advertise as surplus with a minimum bid of \$2,500, Commissioner Belli seconded. 6 Ayes (Maddalena, Belli, Archer, Hunter, Burt, Rowson), motion passes.**
4. Discussion/Action regarding surplus of foam application device. (Rick) **Commissioner Maddalena moved to advertise as surplus with a minimum bid of \$1,500, Commissioner Belli seconded. 6 Ayes (Burt, Maddalena, Belli, Archer, Hunter, Rowson), motion passes.**
5. Discussion/Action to consider advanced payment to volunteer fire fighter at Loyalton and Sheep fires. **To date the District has not received payment on these fires and volunteers have been asking for compensation. Jeff and Tami McCollum asked that the District consider a payment of 50% to the volunteers who worked the fires. Currently, there is no policy regarding prepayment if volunteer compensation. The Clerk asked Chief Connolly if volunteers volunteer because of an expected compensation, for which he responded, "No." Commissioner Burt felt there needed to be a policy in place and thought he could work on it. Commissioner Belli moved to pay 50% of estimated volunteer wages by the end of the month, unless the District received payment by that time, and therefore the District would pay 100%. Commissioner Maddalena seconded. Chairperson Rowson called for a Roll Call Vote: Archer-Aye, Maddalena-Aye, Burt-Aye, Belli-Aye, Rowson-Nay. 4 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 Absent. Motion passes.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS: Paul Roen solemnly announced that Donnie Marshall recently passed away.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: July 13, 2021 at 6:00pm in Sierraville

6. ADJOURNMENT: 8:05 pm

Key: T – Tabled from previous meeting H – Handout

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER, PLEASE CALL 530.604.4013 AHEAD IF YOU NEED ANY ACCOMODATIONS.



Sierra County Fire Protection District # 1
PO Box 255
Sierraville, CA 96126
www.sierracountyfireprotectiondistrict1.com

Commissioners

Thomas Rowson— Chairman
Rick Maddalena
Thomas Archer
Shawn Burt
Laurie Belli
Candace Hunter

David Gillings

State Public Assistance Officer
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Ave
Mather, CA 95655

Subject: **Second Appeal**—Request for Public Assistance
FEMA-4558-DR-CA, August 2020 Wildfires
Cal OES ID: 091031 FEMA ID: 091-U51WO-00
Subrecipient: Sierra County Fire Protection District #1
Cal OES Log: 723179.3 FEMA Log: 395654

Dear Mr. Gillings:

As the subrecipient of the appeal, the Sierra County Fire Protection District #1 (the District), in accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations section 206.206 appeals FEMA's decision on our first appeal (same record as listed above) posted by Robert Fenton, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX on May 24, 2021.

In support of our request for a second appeal we offer the following:

- 1) The District re-submits the record as referenced in Regional Administrator Fenton's May 24, 2021 decision.
- 2) The District confirms that the monetary figure in dispute is \$7,352.00
- 3) The District bases this second level of appeal on one sole argument:

The Regional Administrator Fenton's decision is based on a systematic review of the District's stated challenges to meet the deadline and concludes that none create or document an extenuating circumstance beyond the Applicants control that prevented a timely Request for Public Assistance.

The decision maker, however, as failed to consider the **cumulative nature** of those same challenges faced by the District to meet the deadline. The intent of (44 C.F.R.) s/s 206.202 is to promote efficiency, not to punish small rural, volunteer fire organizations who:

- a. got false advice about how to submit an RPA from a higher level of government.
- b. was misled by FEMA's role out of the "FEMA GO" at the same time that RPA's were to be submitted through their Grants Portal
- c. that all of this confusion (for a small rural, volunteer District with no paid staff) happened while there was on-going threats to Sierra County from the "North Complex" and staff and apparatus were assigned to other wildland fires in the Region.

The District asks for reconsideration given the combined **(cumulative)** effects of the documented challenges faced by the Applicant to meet the established deadline. Further, the District notes that there is an extremely low risk of FEMA establishing a precedent for future claims by acknowledging the unique circumstances faced by this volunteer in this claim.

Respectfully,

Thomas Rowson

Thomas Rowson, Chair of Commission
Sierra County Fire Protection District #1
P.O. Box 255
Sierraville, CA 96126

CC: Sierra County Office of Emergency Services



Sierra County Fire Protection District # 1
PO Box 255
Sierraville, CA 96126
www.sierracountyfireprotectiondistrict1.com

Commissioners

Thomas Rowson - Chairman
Richard Maddalena
Thomas Archer
Shawn Burt
Laurie Belli
Candy Hunter

July 13, 2021

Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Heather Foster, Clerk-Recorder

Please accept this letter representing strong support from the Sierra County Fire Protection District #1 for advocating the restoration and storage of water in the Calpine Reservoir.

As all of you are aware, our region is under extreme drought and fire danger. This project is critical to the Fire District and will significantly help the firefighting community fight wildfire by storing much needed water in the Calpine area for fire suppression.

We sincerely hope you will consider supporting this project.

Thank you,

Thomas Rowson

Thomas Rowson, Chairman
Sierra County Fire Protection District #1